

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7. (currently amended) A terminal fitting, comprising: a base having opposite side edges extending parallel to a longitudinal direction, fastening pieces extending respectively from the side edges of the base and configured to be crimped at least partly around an outer circumferential surface of a seal fit on a wire and positioned on the base, each of the fastening pieces having a contact surface extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction for contacting the seal, an outer surface facing oppositely from and parallel to the contact surface, a side edge aligned perpendicular to the outer surface and extending from the outer surface towards the contact surface and a seal protecting surfaces disposed on the fastening pieces along extending between the side edges of and the contact surfaces, the seal protecting surfaces being aligned at an acute obtuse angle-( $\alpha$ ) to the contact surface of the fastening piece for avoiding biting contact with the seal.

8. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the seal protecting portion surface is formed over substantially entire side edges adjacent the contact surface of each of the fastening pieces.

9. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the seal protecting surfaces extending linearly at the acute obtuse angle-( $\alpha$ ) to the contact surface of the fastening piece.

10. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the seal protecting surfaces are curved and have tangents aligned at the acute angle-( $\alpha$ ) to the contact surface of the fastening piece.

11. (currently amended) A terminated wire, comprising:

a wire having a longitudinal direction and an end, a conductive core extending along the longitudinal direction from the end and an insulation coating surrounding at least a portion of the core;

a substantially tubular seal mounted over the insulation coating in proximity to the end of the wire, the seal having an outer circumferential surface; and

a terminal fitting having base extending along the longitudinal direction and engaging a portion of the outer circumferential surface of the seal, the base having opposite side edges, fastening pieces extending respectively from the side edges of the base and crimped at least partly around the outer circumferential surface of the seal, the fastening pieces being spaced from one another along the longitudinal direction, each of the fastening pieces having a contact surface extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction and contacting the outer circumferential surface of the seal, and seal protecting surfaces disposed on the fastening pieces along edges of the contact surfaces, the seal protecting surfaces being aligned at an acute obtuse angle ( $\alpha$ ) to the contact surface of the fastening piece for avoiding biting contact with the seal.

12. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the seal protecting surfaces extend linearly at the acute obtuse angle ( $\alpha$ ) to the contact surface of the fastening piece.

13. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the seal protecting surfaces are curved and have tangents aligned at the acute obtuse angle ( $\alpha$ ) to the contact surface of the fastening piece.

14. (previously presented) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the seal protecting portion is formed over substantially entire side edges adjacent the contact surface of each of the fastening pieces.

15. (new) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein each of the fastening pieces has an outer surface aligned substantially parallel to the contact surface and an edge aligned substantially perpendicular to the outer surface and extending from the outer surface to the seal protecting portion.